

Amendment  
Serial No. 10/510,982  
Attorney Docket No. 042839

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended): Protective covering for welding devices, in particular spot welding pliers, said covering being resistant to welding projections and being non-flammable, wherein the covering comprises, ~~on the one hand~~,:
  - a front panel ~~and~~,
  - a rear panel,
  - connecting means, wherein the front panel and the rear panel are capable of being connected to each other by the connecting means enabling the distance between the two panels to be adjusted, these panels being substantially planar and protecting the portion of the device equipped with welding pliers and the portion opposed to the latter, and, ~~on the other hand~~,
    - a tubular rim to be disposed between the front and rear panels and protecting the portion located between them, this rim being constituted by several panels connected together in a an individually and completely detachable manner in order for the rim to correspond at best to the circumference of the welding device.

2. (Previously presented): Protective covering according to claim 1, wherein the front panel has openings to let the arms of spot welding pliers pass through.

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3. (Previously presented): Protective covering according to claim 1, wherein the rear panel is equipped with an opening to let the arm of a manipulator or a bundle of cables pass through.

4. (Previously presented): Protective covering according to claim 1, wherein the front panel and/or the rear panel has a lateral portion capable of being at least partially covered by the rim or of covering the latter.

5. (Currently amended): Protective covering according to claim 1, wherein the connecting means between the front ~~and~~ and rear panels are straps equipped with fixation and adjustment means.

6. (Previously presented): Protective covering according to claim 1, wherein the connecting means between the front and rear panels are elastic straps.

7. (Previously presented): Protective covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels of the rim are connected to each other by bands of the Velcro ® type located on their lateral edges.

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8. (Previously presented): Protective covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels of the rim are connected to each other at least at the extremities of their lateral edges by snap fasteners or latches.

9. (New): Protective covering according to claim 2, wherein the rear panel is equipped with an opening to let the arm of a manipulator or a bundle of cables pass through.

10. (New): Protective covering for welding devices, in particular spot welding pliers, said covering being resistant to welding projections and being non-flammable, wherein the covering comprises:

a front panel,

a rear panel,

connecting means, wherein the front panel and the rear panel are capable of being connected to each other by the connecting means enabling the distance between the two panels to be adjusted, these panels being substantially planar and protecting the portion of the device equipped with welding pliers and the portion opposed to the latter, and

a tubular rim to be disposed between the front and rear panels and protecting the portion located between them, this rim being constituted by several panels connected together in a detachable manner in order for the rim to correspond at best to the circumference of the welding device,

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wherein the front panel has openings to let the arms of spot welding pliers pass through.

11. (New): Protective covering according to claim 10, wherein the rear panel is equipped with an opening to let the arm of a manipulator or a bundle of cables pass through.

12. (New): Protective covering according to claim 10, wherein the front panel and/or the rear panel has a lateral portion capable of being at least partially covered by the rim or of covering the latter.

13. (New): Protective covering according to claim 10, wherein the connecting means between the front and rear panels are straps equipped with fixation and adjustment means.

14. (New): Protective covering according to claim 10, wherein the connecting means between the front and rear panels are elastic straps.

15. (New): Protective covering according to claim 10, wherein the panels of the rim are connected to each other at least at the extremities of their lateral edges by snap fasteners or latches.

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16. (New): Protective covering for welding devices, in particular spot welding pliers, said covering being resistant to welding projections and being non-flammable, wherein the covering comprises:

a front panel,

a rear panel,

connecting means, wherein the front panel and the rear panel are capable of being connected to each other by the connecting means enabling the distance between the two panels to be adjusted, these panels being substantially planar and protecting the portion of the device equipped with welding pliers and the portion opposed to the latter, and

a tubular rim to be disposed between the front and rear panels and protecting the portion located between them, this rim being constituted by several panels connected together in a detachable manner in order for the rim to correspond at best to the circumference of the welding device,

wherein the rear panel is equipped with an opening to let the arm of a manipulator or a bundle of cables pass through.

17. (New): Protective covering according to claim 16, wherein the front panel and/or the rear panel has a lateral portion capable of being at least partially covered by the rim or of covering the latter.

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18. (New): Protective covering according to claim 16, wherein the connecting means between the front and rear panels are straps equipped with fixation and adjustment means.

18. (New): Protective covering according to claim 16, wherein the connecting means between the front and rear panels are elastic straps.

20. (New): Protective covering according to claim 16, wherein the panels of the rim are connected to each other at least at the extremities of their lateral edges by snap fasteners or latches.